This has been done with a view to, *inter alia* bring in greater diversity among newspapers and periodicals, bring national dailies to international standards and provide more economical and easier access to foreign scientific technical and specialist magazines, journals and periodicals.

The above decision has been taken after addressing various concerns including those expressed by the Standing Committee on Information Technology.

(c) There is no such proposal at present.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Payment for TV channels

1275. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are taking any steps to ensure that the viewers pay for only the channels of their choice and not the once that they do not usually watch;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government propose to introduce a modulator box for the covenience of such viewers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) Government has introduced the Cable Television networks (Regulation) Amandment Bill, 2002 in Parliament, with a view to introduce an addressable system for pay channel viewing through the cable networks. This will give choice to the consumer to pay for only those channels that he chooses to view. The Bill has been passed by the Lok Sabha on 15.5.2002.

Demand of united forum of Prasar Bharati Employees

†1276. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prasar Bharti Management has received Memoranda from the United Forum of Prasar Bharti Employees regarding various problems of A.I.R. and Doordarshan employees;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.